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The Friday Letter

Vol. 12 No. 5

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Bertini Visits Mid-Atlantic Region

Assistant Secretary Bertini made her first visit to the Mid-Atlantic Regional Office on February 9.

Regional Administrator Chris Martin, introducing her at a staff assembly, said, "Assistant Secretary Bertini has expressed a very strong concern for the needy in this country. She has made it very clear to all of us that our basic job is to serve the needy and to make these programs work well."

"I want to talk about the important role that we all play," Bertini said. "Whatever the issue is, when we go home at night, I think we go home with a great satisfaction because we're working in an agency that's dedicated to helping poor and hungry people. We are really on the front lines in terms of supporting those who can't operate without some basic support."



Assistant Secretary Bertini makes a point about the Administration's priorities to Mid-Atlantic staff.

(Bertini Continued Next Page)

Yeutter Chooses OAE Staffer to Represent USDA



Secretary Yeutter has nominated Sharon A. Bingham, program analyst, Office of Analysis and Evaluation, to participate in an Emerging Leaders Group.

The group is sponsored by the Riggs National Bank. Joe L. Allbritton, chairman of the board and chief executive officer of Riggs, asked the Secretary to nominate one person from USDA to participate in the group. Eighteen USDA nominations were received. Bingham was selected from four finalists after an oral interview and an evaluation of a written assignment.

Participants in the Emerging Leaders Group will meet informally every 2 months with today's leaders from Government and private industry. The meetings are expected to provide a forum for the next generation of leaders to exchange ideas and build relationships. Approximately 25 young

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Retiree is Honored



Proudly accepting his retirement certificate after 35 years of Federal service is George Williams, former systems accountant with the Accounting Division and Grants Management (left). Dave Hamer, assistant deputy administrator for Financial Management, presented the certificate. William Boling, Budget Division director, emceed the party at Ramparts, and a good time was had by all.

-Story by Gladys Lee
Accounting Division
Photo by Charles Okal
Financial Management

(Bertini Continued)

Bertini said the Administration wants to face head-on any debate about whether the money American taxpayers spend on food assistance gets to the people who need it. One example is a Farm Bill proposal aimed at expanding the electronic delivery of food stamp benefits.

Meeting children's needs also is a top priority of the Administration, said Bertini. "In part, we don't do enough to serve some of the people most vulnerable in our society."

Bertini also presented cash awards to several employees involved in providing commodities and issuing emergency food coupons to the victims of Hurricane Hugo.

The regional staff had an opportunity to meet and talk with Bertini before she returned to Washington.

-Story and photo by Marian Wig
MARC Public Affairs Office

Denver School Featured in Fishery TV Spots

Students at Denver's St. Rose of Lima Parochial School were in the TV spotlight recently, thanks to a National Fisheries Institute electronic press release extolling the virtues of fish.

Media consultant Karen Kalish filmed student interviews at school cafeterias in three states to produce several TV spots for the institute. After the spots were completed, they were distributed via satellite to stations across the country. TV stations preview free spots from a variety of organizations and choose the best to fill their public service time slots.

Kalish is a former teacher and reporter for WLS-TV, Chicago's ABC affiliate, who now resides in Washington, DC.



-Story and photo by Craig Forman
MPRO Public Affairs Staff

(Yeutter Continued)

men and women will participate in the program.

Bingham has received numerous awards for her academic accomplishments and has proved to be an outstanding leader in her profession and in the business community as well. We are confident that the Department will be well represented.

-Story by Venita Smith
Personnel Division



National WIC IDEA Conference Held in Georgia

More than 290 participants were present at the National WIC IDEA (Imagination, Development, Efficiency, Accountability) Conference held over the holidays in Atlanta, Georgia. The Supplemental Food Programs Division sponsored the conference, the theme of which was administrative cost management issues and state automated data processing (ADP) systems.

Virgil Conrad, SERO administrator, welcomed the participants; Ron Vogel, director, Supplemental Food Programs Division, gave the opening remarks; and Joe Leo, deputy administrator for management, delivered the keynote address.



Kentucky WIC celebrates and demonstrates its system at the WIC IDEA Conference.

Nancy Palmer, MPRO, explains the WIC Projection System to NERO participants Ron Pollone (IRMD), standing, and Joe Mahan (FM).

State, regional, and headquarters representatives gave workshops on such topics as preparing advance planning documents, requests for proposals, and contracts; preparing local users for a new ADP system; guidelines for making prudent equipment and software purchases; system piloting; participant characteristics minimum data set; integration of WIC ADP systems; confidentiality of data systems; state plan reform; local agency assessments; and revisions to OMB circulars.

There were also 38 computer exhibits from 22 state agencies, two FNS regional offices, six private contractors, and the centers for disease control. Software and systems currently being used in the WIC program were demonstrated.

-Story by Barb Jendrysik
Supplemental Food Programs Division
Photos by Charlie Okal

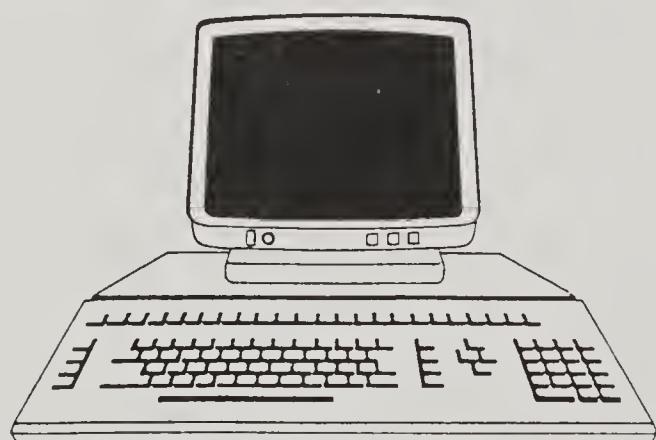


Task Force Plans Summer ROAP

The one remaining Mountain Plains Regional Office-administered Summer Food Service Program--in Missouri--drew the attention of a joint field/regional task force at a week-long meeting in Denver.

Dick Jensen and Fran Preloger from the St. Louis, Missouri, Field Office and Mary Ragland and Rosemary Brackenbury from the Independence, Missouri, Field Office joined MPRO program and Automated Data Processing (ADP) staff to set priorities for the 1990 Missouri summer program and to explore better use of computers. Regional members of the task force included Elaine Acosta, Ersielene Ruffin, Bonnie Muirhead, Joyce Young, and Charlie Closs.

The task force discussed online transmission of sponsor claims from the field to replace use of overnight Federal Express service. Charlie Closs of the ADP staff has developed programs for field staff to plug in calculations of advances to sponsors and sponsor earnings, and a new claims-payment tracking system that will monitor when claims are entered and when the pay list is run.



The Independence and St. Louis Field Offices will do most of the work in running the Missouri program. The regional office will continue to handle media notices and registration of food service management companies. In the other nine MPRO states, field offices conduct management evaluations of state summer operations.

-Story by Joanne Widner
MPRO Public Affairs Staff

Announcement of Dialog Service



The FNS library at headquarters would like patrons to know about a recently acquired resource. This is its subscription to DIALOG, an on-line database service.

DIALOG includes AGRICOLA, which indexes and abstracts articles and books on our programs and nutrition. MEDLINE may also be helpful. The Commerce Business Daily database may be useful to anyone needing to track a request for proposal. CENDATA and the Bureau of Labor Statistics databases contain data on population, wages, poverty, and minorities.

Other useful areas include newspaper clippings, computers, education, and an entire online encyclopedia.

The library has a limited budget for any project with deadlines of less than a week and searches costing less than \$100. For longer deadlines, the library prefers you arrange for searches with the Food and Nutrition Information Center at the National Agricultural Library.

-Story by Richard A. Dengrove
Librarian

Food Programs Participation Update

Following are preliminary estimates of participation in the Federal-State food assistance programs for the month of December with comparisons to the previous month and to the same month of last year.

Dec. 1988 Nov. 1989 Dec. 1989 2/

Food Stamp Program: 1/

People participating (mil.)	18.7	19.1	19.4
Value of bonus coupons (\$ mil.)	979.3	1,140.7	1,158.2
Average bonus per person	\$ 52.39	\$ 59.66	\$ 59.75
Total program cost (\$ mil.)	1,081.0	1,254.8	1,272.3

National School Lunch Program:

Number of schools participating (thous.)	91.5	N/A	N/A
Children participating (mil.)	24.5	24.5	24.4
Children reached with free or reduced price lunches (mil.)	11.5	11.7	11.5
Percentage of lunches served free	39.4	40.7	39.7
Percentage of lunches served at reduced price..	6.7	6.9	6.8
Total program cost (\$ mil.)	300.7	387.0	287.8

School Breakfast Program:

Number of schools participating (thous.)	40.0	N/A	N/A
Children participating (mil.)	3.7	4.1	3.9
Percentage of breakfasts served free or at reduced price	86.9	86.0	86.7
Total program cost (\$ mil.)	40.3	62.6	42.6

Child and Adult Care Food Program:

Number of meals served in centers (mil.)	33.9	41.8	35.5
Number of meals served in homes (mil.)	31.7	36.8	34.4
Percentage of all meals served free	79.2	79.4	79.8
Total program cost (\$ mil.)	52.3	66.0	59.0

Special Supplemental Food Program (WIC):

People participating (mil.)	3.9	4.5	4.4
Food cost (\$ mil.)	125.3	135.2	132.4
Total program cost (\$ mil.)	158.6	165.6	167.7

Commodity Supplemental Food Program: 3/

People participating (thous.)	215.6	280.7	270.6
Total program cost (\$ mil.)	4.3	5.4	5.7

Food Distribution to Indians and Needy Families:

Number of projects in operation	108	109	109
People participating (thous.)	137.3	139.7	137.2
Total program cost (\$ mil.)	4.8	4.7	4.6

Total USDA Food Donations (All Programs):

Entitlement Foods (\$ mil.)	97.7	63.4	89.8
Bonus Foods (\$ mil.)	44.5	23.3	18.7
Temporary Emergency Food Assistance (TEFAP) ..	13.0	17.4	16.3

1/ Puerto Rico has been excluded from all months.

2/ Data collected as of February 23, 1990.

3/ Includes data for all elderly participants.

Friday Letter Vacancy Listing by Vacancy Number

JOB TITLE	AREA OF CONSID.	SERIES	GRADE	CLOSING DATE	VACANCY NUMBER	OFFICE LOCATION
o Food Prog. Admin. Spec. (A)		GS-0120	5/7	05/01/90	90-B	FNS-N
o Math. Statistician (A)		GS-1529	9/12	5/21/90	90-H-23*	HNIS
o Nutritionist (A)		GS-0630	11/12	4/30/90	90-H-40*	HNIS
o Home Economist (A)		GS-0493	11/12	04/16/90	90-H-56	HNIS
o Secretary (Typing) (A)		GS-0318	5	03/26/90	90-57	PID
o Home Economist (A)		GS-0493	9/11	04/16/90	90-H-59**	HNIS
o Food Prog. Spec. (FNS-N)		GM-0120	13	04/02/90	90-60	SNP
o Secretary (Typing) (A)		GS-0318	4/5	04/09/90	90-62	SNP
o Nutritionist (A)		GS-0630	11/12	04/30/90	90-H-63	HNIS
o Home Economist (HNIS-W)		GM-0493	13	04/02/90	90-H-64	HNIS
o Supv Food Prog Spec (FNS-N)		GM-0120	13	04/23/90	90-65	PAD
o Home Economist (A)		GS-0493	9	04/16/90	90-H-66	HNIS
o Home Economist (A)		GS-0493	9/11	04/30/90	90-H-67	HNIS

Office Location

HNIS - Human Nutrition Information Service
 PID - Program Information Division
 PAD - Program Accountability Division
 SNP - Special Nutrition Programs

* Reannouncement
 ** Extension of closing date and change in evaluation criteria

Area of Consideration

(A) - All Sources
 (FNS-N) - Food and Nutrition Service-Nationwide
 (HNIS-W) - Human Nutrition Info. Service-wide

Had Your Cholesterol and Blood Pressure Checked Lately?

Even if you think you're fit, it's a wise choice to have a cholesterol and blood pressure screening periodically. Anyone wishing to have this evaluation should come to Conference Room 400 on April 4 from 9 to 11:30 a.m. The cost is \$3.

Mary E. Kennedy, Editor

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